

Testimony Regarding Raised Bill 1064: An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana  
Testifier: Kristin Brooks Sandler  
23 Christina Court, Clinton, CT 06413

I am a proud member of the Connecticut Association of Prevention Practitioners (CAPP). CAPP is a united group of prevention professionals, who share a concern over the unintended consequences medical marijuana may bring to our state, including:

- increased access to youth
- increased crash fatalities
- decrease in perception of harm
- confusion within the medical field on side effects

Please be clear: CAPP does not oppose medical marijuana. We are opposed to marijuana legalization because of its **negative impact on our youth and the creation of a Big Marijuana industry** in our state.

Raised Bill 1064 is a danger to our state. It acts upon everything that CAPP and countless community coalitions and prevention professionals are standing against: increased access to marijuana by youth, increased availability of medical-grade cannabis in our state, and increased normalization of marijuana as medicine.

The public is being duped when cannabis is referred to as “medicine”. It is imperative that marijuana goes through the same research and clinical trials as other substances before being called medicine. To this point, I support the additional clinical testing of marijuana for palliative use in Connecticut. On March 11, 2015 a public hearing was held regarding Bill 4024: An Act Concerning A Study of the Palliative Use of Marijuana for Children. It is imperative that our state does not put the cart before the horse. Let us follow the lead of other states in such responsible measures as the testing of Epidiolex (a pharmaceutical derived from CBD, <http://www.gwpharm.com/Epidiolex.aspx>) before the proposed amendments in Raised Bill 1064 are put into practice.

CAPP respectfully requests the legislature also consider these additional concerns regarding marijuana as medicine:

- Our state should not allow for smoked “medicine”
- Additional research and testing is needed to determine correct dosage. The current standard of 2.5 ounces per patient each month is too much. This amount saturates our state with excess of a drug that has been linked to lowered IQ and increased traffic fatalities.

We know you share with us a deep concern for the well-being of Connecticut’s young people. Thank you for your attention in this matter.